**REMARKS**

The final Office Action dated August 22, 2008 has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1-25 are now pending in this application. Claims 1-25 stand rejected.

The rejection of Claims 1-3, 5-14, 16-20, and 22-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 7,257,585 to Stevenson, et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Stevenson") in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0188603 to Baird, et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Baird") and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,098,065 to Skillen, et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Skillen") is respectfully traversed.

Initially, Applicant submits that no combination of Stevenson, Baird, and Skillen describes nor suggests the claimed invention. At least one of the differences between Stevenson, Baird, and Skillen and the claimed invention is that no combination of Stevenson, Baird, and Skillen describes or suggests processing a selected object by applying a selected function to produce a processed object, transmitting the processed object from a server system to a remote vendor web server, and receiving a result based on the processed object from the vendor web server at the server system.

Stevenson describes a system for augmenting data from a source data file (30) with data from a reference database (39), thereby generating an augmented data file (50). The source data file (30) resides on a server on a network (33). A handler (36) retrieves the source data file (30) for use by the system. A locator (42) examines the retrieved source data file (30) for comparison to the reference database (39) according to an analyzing strategy. The locator (42) compares structured data from the source data file (30) and reference data from the reference database (39), and provides the reference data to an analyzer (45). The analyzer (45) creates associations between each compared structured datum and a uniform resource locator (URL) address within each corresponding reference datum found by the locator (42). A generator (48) then embeds each URL address in the source data file (30), resulting in the augmented data file (50). Notably, Stevenson does not describe nor suggest

transmitting a processed object from the server system to a remote vendor web server or receiving a result from the vendor web server at the server system.

Baird describes a method for automating a search over the Internet. A user selects (100) data such as a text string from within an application. The selected data is used by a search engine to perform (104) an Internet search, without requiring the user to leave the application. When the search is complete, the search results are returned (106) to the user within the application. The user may also choose a particular search engine to use as a default search engine. Notably, Baird does not describe nor suggest transmitting a processed object from the server system to a remote vendor web server or receiving a result from the vendor web server at the server system.

Skillen describes an advertising machine (10) that is connected to a data processing device (12) through a communications link (14). The advertising machine (10) includes a database search engine (16), an associative search engine (18) and a database (20) that includes contextual data (22) and product data (24). Based on a search string received by the advertising machine (10) from the data processing device (12), the database search engine (10) searches through the contextual data (22) in the database (20) and returns the results of the search to the data processing device (12) for display to an end user. The database search engine (16) then passes the search argument and results to the associative search engine (18). The associative search engine (18) uses rule-based software algorithms and/or fuzzy logic to search for a match of a particular product within the product data (24). The results of the search by the associative search engine (18) are then returned to the data processing device (12) for display to the end user in the form of an advertisement. Skillen also discloses that the advertising machine (10) is a distinct, self-contained unit within an Internet access provider equipment site (32). Notably, Skillen does not describe nor suggest transmitting a processed object from the server system to a remote vendor web server or receiving a result from the vendor web server at the server system. Rather, Skillen describes a self-contained advertising machine that includes a search engine, a product database, and an associative search engine. The associative search engine uses rule-based software algorithms and/or fuzzy logic to relate search arguments to product data stored in the product database.

However, the associative search engine described by Skillen is not remotely located with respect to the advertising machine. Moreover, the associative search engine described by Skillen is not a third-party vendor web server.

Claim 1 recites a method for retrieving information using a server system coupled to a centralized database and at least one client system. The method includes "selecting an object from an electronic document displayed on a client system . . . displaying a function menu on the client system to prompt a user to select a desired function to apply to the selected object . . . transmitting the selected object and the selected function from the client system to the server system . . . processing the selected object by applying the selected function to the selected object at the server system to produce a processed object . . . transmitting the processed object from the server system to a target remote vendor web server . . . receiving a result from the target vendor web server at the server system, the result generated by the vendor web server based on the processed object and including at least a resulting web page...."

None of Stevenson, Baird, and Skillen, considered alone or in combination, describes or suggests a method for retrieving information, as recited in Claim 1. More specifically, none of Stevenson, Baird, and Skillen, considered alone or in combination, describes or suggests transmitting a selected object and function from a client system to a server system, processing the selected object by applying the selected function to produce a processed object, transmitting the processed object from a server system to a remote vendor web server, and receiving a result based on the processed object from the vendor web server at the server system. Rather, Stevenson describes comparing the contents of a source data file to the contents of a reference database and generating an augmented data file that includes the source data file and data from the reference database; Baird describes selecting search terms, initiating a search action, passing the requested search into a search engine, and returning the results of the search to the user; and Skillen describes a self-contained advertising machine that includes a search engine, a product database, and an associative search engine that uses rule-based software algorithms and/or fuzzy logic to relate search arguments to product data stored in the product database.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over Stevenson in view of Baird and further in view of Skillen.

Claims 2, 3, and 5-9 depend from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 2, 3, and 5-9 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicant submits that dependent Claims 2, 3, and 5-9 likewise are patentable over Stevenson in view of Baird and further in view of Skillen.

Claim 10 recites a network based system for retrieving information, wherein the system includes a client system including a user interface and a browser, a centralized database for storing information, and a server system configured to be coupled to the client system and the database. The server system is further configured to "enable a user to select an object from an electronic document displayed on said user interface . . . display a function menu on said user interface to prompt a user to select a desired function to apply to the selected object . . . receive the selected object and the selected function from said client system . . . process the selected object by applying the selected function to the selected object to produce a processed object . . . transmit the processed object from said server system to a vendor web server in communication therewith . . . receive a result from the vendor web server at said server system, the result generated by the vendor web server based on the processed object and including at least a resulting web page...."

None of Stevenson, Baird, and Skillen, considered alone or in combination, describes or suggests a networked-based system for retrieving information, as recited in Claim 10. More specifically, none of Stevenson, Baird, and Skillen, considered alone or in combination, describes or suggests a server system that is coupled to a client system and a database, wherein the server system is configured to receive a selected object and selected function from the client system, process the selected object by applying the selected function to produce a processed object, transmit a processed object to the vendor web server, and receive a result from the vendor web server based on the processed object. Rather, Stevenson describes comparing the contents of a source data file to the contents of a reference database and generating an augmented data file that includes the source data file and data from the reference database; Baird describes selecting search terms, initiating a search action, passing

12

the requested search into a search engine, and returning the results of the search to the user; and Skillen describes a self-contained advertising machine that includes a search engine, a product database, and an associative search engine that uses rule-based software algorithms and/or fuzzy logic to relate search arguments to product data stored in the product database.

The Office Action asserts at page 8 with regard to Claim 10 that "Skillen teaches transmit the processed object from the server system to a target web server (Skillen, col. 4, lines 30-35); receive a result from the target web server at the server system...." However, Skillen fails to teach transmitting a processed object from a server system to a remote vendor web server, wherein the processed object is produced by applying a selected function to a selected object. Moreover, Skillen fails to teach receiving a result based on the processed object from the vendor web server at the server system. Rather, Skillen describes a self-contained advertising machine that includes a search engine, a product database, and an associative search engine. The associative search engine uses rule-based software algorithms and/or fuzzy logic to relate search arguments to product data stored in the product database. However, the associative search engine described by Skillen is not remotely located with respect to the advertising machine. Moreover, the associative search engine described by Skillen is not a vendor web server that is remote to a server system.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 10 is submitted to be patentable over Stevenson in view of Baird and further in view of Skillen.

Claims 11-14 and 16-18 depend from independent Claim 10. When the recitations of Claims 11-14 and 16-18 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 10, Applicant submits that dependent Claims 11-14 and 16-18 likewise are patentable over Stevenson in view of Baird and further in view of Skillen.

Claim 19 recites a computer program embodied on a computer readable medium for retrieving information using a server system coupled to a client system, a database, and a remote vendor web server, wherein the client system includes a user interface. The program includes a code segment that prompts a user to select an object from an electronic document displayed on the user interface and then "displays a function menu on the user interface to

prompt the user to select a desired function to apply to the selected object . . . transmits the selected object and the selected function from the client system to the server system . . . processes the selected object by applying the selected function to the selected object at the server system to produce a processed object . . . transmits the processed object from the server system to the vendor web server . . . receives a result from the vendor web server at the server system, the result generated by the vendor web server based on the processed object and including at least a resulting web page...."

None of Stevenson, Baird, and Skillen, considered alone or in combination, describes or suggests a computer program for retrieving information using a server system coupled to a client system, a database, and a remote vendor web server, as recited in Claim 19. More specifically, none of Stevenson, Baird, and Skillen, considered alone or in combination, describes or suggests a code segment of the computer program that transmits a selected object and a selected function from a client system to a server system, processes the selected object by applying the selected function to produce a processed object, transmits the processed object from the server system to the vendor web server, and receives a result based on the processed object from the vendor web server at the server system. Rather, Stevenson describes comparing the contents of a source data file to the contents of a reference database and generating an augmented data file that includes the source data file and data from the reference database; Baird describes selecting search terms, initiating a search action, passing the requested search into a search engine, and returning the results of the search to the user; and Skillen describes a self-contained advertising machine that includes a search engine, a product database, and an associative search engine that uses rule-based software algorithms and/or fuzzy logic to relate search arguments to product data stored in the product database.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 19 is submitted to be patentable over Stevenson in view of Baird and further in view of Skillen.

Claims 20 and 22-25 depend from independent Claim 19. When the recitations of Claims 20 and 22-25 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 19, Applicant submits that dependent Claims 20 and 22-25 likewise are patentable over Stevenson in view of Baird and further in view of Skillen.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests that the Section 103 rejection of Claims 1-3, 5-14, 16-20, and 22-25 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 4, 15, and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stevenson in view of Baird in view of Skillen and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,735,347 to Bates, et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Bates") is respectfully traversed.

Stevenson, Baird, and Skillen are described above. Bates describes a method and system (200) for copying images from a source document to a destination document in a computer user interface (300). A user is given the option to cut or copy information from an image within the source document and to extract the textual information from the cut or copied image, enabling the extracted text to be pasted into the destination document as text. The textual information is extracted from the cut or copied image using optical character recognition (OCR) techniques. When instructed by the user, the user interface (300) copies the image, uses OCR to locate textual information within the image, and then pastes the located textual information into the destination document.

Claim 4 depends from independent Claim 1, which is recited above.

As discussed above, none of Stevenson, Baird, and Skillen, considered alone or in combination, describes or suggests a method for retrieving information, as recited in Claim 1. More specifically, none of Stevenson, Baird, and Skillen, considered alone or in combination, describes or suggests transmitting a selected object and function from a client system to a server system, processing the selected object by applying the selected function to produce a processed object, transmitting the processed object from a server system to a remote vendor web server, and receiving a result based on the processed object from the vendor web server at the server system. Applicant respectfully submits that Bates does not make up for the deficiencies of Stevenson, Baird, and Skillen. Rather, Stevenson describes comparing the contents of a source data file to the contents of a reference database and generating an augmented data file that includes the source data file and data from the reference database; Baird describes selecting search terms, initiating a search action, passing the requested search into a search engine, and returning the results of the search to the user; Skillen describes a

15

self-contained advertising machine that includes a search engine, a product database, and an associative search engine that uses rule-based software algorithms and/or fuzzy logic to relate search arguments to product data stored in the product database; and Bates merely describes a method for copying images between documents in a computer user interface.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over Stevenson in view of Baird in view of Skillen and further in view of Bates.

When the recitations of Claim 4 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicant submits that dependent Claim 4 likewise is patentable over Stevenson in view of Baird in view of Skillen and further in view of Bates.

Claim 15 depends from independent Claim 10, which is recited above.

As discussed above, none of Stevenson, Baird, and Skillen, considered alone or in combination, describes or suggests a networked-based system for retrieving information, as recited in Claim 10. More specifically, none of Stevenson, Baird, and Skillen, considered alone or in combination, describes or suggests a server system that is coupled to a client system and a database, wherein the server system is configured to receive a selected object and selected function from the client system, process the selected object by applying the selected function to produce a processed object, transmit the processed object to the vendor web server, and receive a result based on the processed object from the vendor web server. Applicant respectfully submits that Bates does not make up for the deficiencies of Stevenson, Baird, and Skillen. Rather, Stevenson describes comparing the contents of a source data file to the contents of a reference database and generating an augmented data file that includes the source data file and data from the reference database; Baird describes selecting search terms, initiating a search action, passing the requested search into a search engine, and returning the results of the search to the user; Skillen describes a self-contained advertising machine that includes a search engine, a product database, and an associative search engine that uses rule-based software algorithms and/or fuzzy logic to relate search arguments to product data stored in the product database; and Bates merely describes a method for copying images between documents in a computer user interface.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 10 is submitted to be patentable over Stevenson in view of Baird in view of Skillen and further in view of Bates.

When the recitations of Claim 15 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 10, Applicant submits that dependent Claim 15 likewise is patentable over Stevenson in view of Baird in view of Skillen and further in view of Bates.

Claim 21 depends from independent Claim 19, which is recited above.

As discussed above, none of Stevenson, Baird, and Skillen, considered alone or in combination, describes or suggests a computer program for retrieving information using a server system coupled to a client system, a database, and a remote vendor web server, as recited in Claim 19. More specifically, none of Stevenson, Baird, and Skillen, considered alone or in combination, describes or suggests a code segment of the computer program that transmits a selected object and a selected function from a client system to a server system, processes the selected object by applying the selected function to produce a processed object, transmits the processed object from the server system to the vendor web server, and receives a result based on the processed object from the vendor web server at the server system. Applicant respectfully submits that Bates does not make up for the deficiencies of Stevenson, Baird, and Skillen. Rather, Stevenson describes comparing the contents of a source data file to the contents of a reference database and generating an augmented data file that includes the source data file and data from the reference database; Baird describes selecting search terms, initiating a search action, passing the requested search into a search engine, and returning the results of the search to the user; Skillen describes a self-contained advertising machine that includes a search engine, a product database, and an associative search engine that uses rule-based software algorithms and/or fuzzy logic to relate search arguments to product data stored in the product database; and Bates merely describes a method for copying images between documents in a computer user interface.
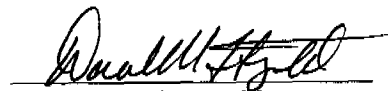
Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Claim 19 is submitted to be patentable over Stevenson in view of Baird in view of Skillen and further in view of Bates.

When the recitations of Claim 21 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 19, Applicant submits that dependent Claim 1 likewise is patentable over Stevenson in view of Baird in view of Skillen and further in view of Bates.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests that the Section 103 rejection of Claims 4, 15, and 21 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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